

Extinction of Wild Buffaloes

737. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a rare species of wild buffaloes found in Bastar (Madhya Pradesh) is on the verge of extinction; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Although the wild buffalo in Bastar, Madhya Pradesh is an endangered species, it is not on the verge of extinction.

(b) The wild buffalo is included under schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which gives it full legal protection against hunting and commercial exploitation. The species and its habitat is also protected in the Indravati National Park, Bhairamgarh Sanctuary and Pamed Sanctuary of Bastar District in Madhya Pradesh which together have a population of 225 wild buffaloes as per the 1996 census.

[English]

Pak Infiltrators

738. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army foiled an attempt by Pakistan to subvert the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by arresting a number of Hizbul Mujahideen hard-core militants and recovering from them huge quantities of arms on the election eve and repulsing a group of Pak-infiltrators; and

(b) if so, the details of any other similar moves by the militants and Pak forces in Jammu and Kashmir during August-September, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). It is a fact that Pakistan and its protege militant groups made all possible efforts, including attempts to infiltrate armed terrorists into the State, to try and subvert and disrupt the process of the Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir. It is not feasible to pinpoint any particular operation of the Army to foil such designs. Coordinated arrangements and sustained efforts were made by the State Government and all the Security forces and agencies to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed. As a result, the Assembly elections in the State were conducted largely peacefully.

During the period August-September, 1996, 265 militants were killed, 164 were arrested and large quantity of weapons including inter-alia, 422 rifles, 184

pistols, 768 grenades and a sizeable quantity of explosives and ammunition were recovered from the militants.

Consumer Protection Courts/Forums

739. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the consumer protection courts/forums have been set up at the State and District levels in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government renders any assistance to the States for setting up consumer protection courts/forums; and

(d) if so, the amount allocated to Rajasthan so far for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. One State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission at State level and 32 District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forums at District level have been set up in Rajasthan under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(c) and (d). Central Government does not provide any assistance to the States for setting up of Consumer Courts/Forums. However, Central Government has sanctioned one-time grant to States/UTs to strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Courts. Under the scheme an amount of Rs. 1.69 crores has been provided to the State of Rajasthan so far.

Relief to Fishermen

740. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide financial relief to fishermen during the lean months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of fishermen likely to be covered under the scheme; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to cover all marine fishermen under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The Saving-cum-Relief component of the Centrally Sponsored National Welfare of Fishermen Scheme, which was introduced during 1991-92, provided financial support to active marine fishermen during lean months in a year when no fishing activity is due to monsoon/closed season. The scheme?

implemented till 31st March, 1996 and extension is under consideration.

(c) For the Eighth Five Year Plan it had been targeted to cover 6.60 lakh marine fishermen under the Saving-cum-Relief component of the National Welfare of Fishermen scheme. Against this target 8.71 lakh marine fishermen were likely to be covered upto 1995-96.

(d) The scheme was being implemented in only 7 maritime State/Union Territories upto 1995-96.

[Translation]

English Language in the Official Work

741. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is going to celebrate Golden Jubilee of its independence whereas the country is still facing dependence of English language in the official work;

(b) whether official language is not being used in official work for a long time and even the Supreme Court has adopted English as its legal language and the Public Service Commission has made English language as essential one;

(c) whether it is an insult of not only official language Hindi but also all Indian languages;

(d) whether it is not known that the official language of the country is Hindi or English and as per the constitution of India, English is the secondary language but in fact Hindi has become the language of translation; and

(e) whether there is any other independent country on the earth where a foreign language is being used even after fifty years of independence and where a dozen national and five international languages are being used simultaneously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Celebration of Golden Jubilee of independence is a matter of pride for any countrymen. It would not be proper to link this issue with that of the Official Language.

(b) No doubt, English has even upto today, maintained its dominance in official functioning, however, use of Hindi in official work is increasing gradually with incessant efforts of the Government. There are some long term recommendations on introducing use of Hindi in the Supreme Court in the fifth volume of the Report submitted by the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language; action is being taken to get the Presidential Orders passed on these recommendations. English is not compulsory in most of the Examinations conducted by UPSC.

depend on (d). Hindi is the Official Language of the country according to the constitution of India. Govt. of

India is conscious about the progress of Official Language Hindi and is making efforts for the progressive use of Hindi in Official work. It is a sort of compulsion to resort to translation during the transitional period.

(e) Circumstances of different countries are not the same with regard to language and therefore, comparison of one country with another can not be said to be significant.

[English]

Agricultural Production Growth Rate

742. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the present growth rate of agricultural production as compared to the previous two years;

(b) whether there has been significant fall in the production growth rate in the post green revolution period and since the period from which the support price schemes for agriculture have been active;

(c) if so, whether it has also been noticed that while productivity growth rate has improved, the production growth rate has declined;

(d) if so, the reasons for such decline in production growth rate;

(e) whether price policy has not been accompanied by adequate policy aimed at education and training of the farmers in the use of modern technologies which has been responsible for insufficient use of inputs;

(f) whether agriculture extension services are also inadequate; and

(g) if so, the measures being undertaken to improve the agricultural growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The change over the previous year in Agricultural production index during 1995-96 was -.08 percent in comparison to +0.5 percent and +3.5 percent in 1994-95 and 1993-94 respectively.

(b) to (d). The annual growth rate during the post-green revolution period (1967-68 to 1994-95), which almost coincides with the post-price support period, has been of the order of 2.87 per cent. The annual growth rate in productivity during this period has been 2.02 per cent. The low growth in 1995-96 is owing to abnormal weather conditions and low and imbalanced use of fertilizers.

(e) to (g). In order to make agriculture price policy effective, price support has been accompanied by various other measures including adequate supply of various yield increasing inputs and effective extension services to educate the farmers for adoption of modern technology. The extension services have been extended